MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Division of Environmental Health
Drinking Water

Care for MiWell Promotion Toolkit

Contents

Introduction

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Division of Environmental Health (DEH) has identified gaps in drinking water informational resources, especially for private residential well owners. Because of this, we have developed the MiWell Drinking Water and Health Promotion Program. This program includes creative tools to help all Michiganders become actively involved in understanding their homes' drinking water.

This toolkit compiles the DEH resources that are currently available. They can be freely used by state and local organizations to promote drinking water education in their communities. The content of the toolkit will:

- increase Michiganders' knowledge and awareness of how drinking water may impact health.
- encourage Michiganders to take the right actions to reduce and prevent exposures.
- be updated as new materials are developed, so check back often to see what is new! You can also subscribe at bit.ly/Drinking-Water-Health-Newsletter to our drinking water and health newsletter so you'll be aware of updates.

Toolkit Purpose

This toolkit contains prepared, science-based social media messages, graphics, videos, and printable materials. All these materials are designed to make sharing drinking water information easy! Sharing information about drinking water and health helps support the outreach and education aims of the Drinking Water and Health Promotion Program. It also ensures that Michiganders know where their drinking water comes from and the simple actions they can take to ensure they're not being exposed to lead, arsenic, PFAS, coliform bacteria and *E*.coli, or other potential contaminants that can end up in our drinking water.

How to Use This Toolkit

We encourage you to share our materials through various avenues to reach more Michiganders with important information about drinking water and health. Consider social media platforms, websites, mailers, and more.

Click on each icon to download the image or document of interest. Once downloaded, you can share, save, or print the image or document.

Social Media Posts

The following social media posts have been designed to communicate critical drinking water information to Michigan residents. Topics covered include:

- Private Residential Well Drinking Water Testing
- Private Residential Well Maintenance
- Private Residential Wells
- Groundwater
- Learn Where Your Drinking Water Come From
- Drinking Water Contaminants

Posts are organized by social media platform. View and save images by clicking the icon/image. The image will open in a new window where you can then download and save to your files. You can copy and paste the post content to share along with the corresponding image.

Facebook/Instagram Posts

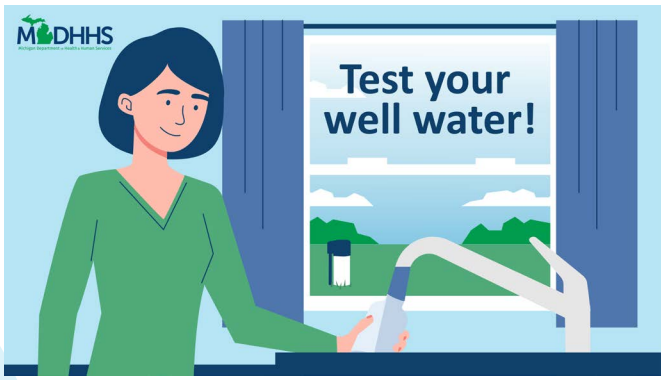
Topic: Private Residential Well Drinking Water Testing

Spring showers bring flooding water!

If you have a well, flooding water can be a problem. Water can collect contaminants found on the ground as it pools. If your well is poorly constructed or maintained, these contaminants could end up in your drinking water. Flood water can also carry debris that can damage the wellhead, allowing contaminants to enter your drinking water.

If flooding happens near your well, consider testing the water you drink for coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite.

Learn about other times you should consider testing your well water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline 844-934-1315.



Do you know if your well water is safe to drink?

The only way to know is to test your water. In Michigan, private well water is not required to be routinely tested like a public water supply.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends testing your well water:

- Every year for coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite
- Every 3 to 5 years for arsenic, copper, and lead

Learn about other times you should test your well water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline 844-934-1315.

Be well water healthy! If you have a private residential well, routinely test your drinking water to know it's safe.

A United States Geological Survey study found that 23% of tested wells contained one or more contaminants above federal drinking water standards or health-based levels.

Learn more about testing your water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Have a private residential well and thinking about starting a family? Get your drinking water tested!

Contaminants may enter drinking water unnoticed. Many have no color, taste, or smell. Pregnant persons, infants, and young children's health can be more at risk from some contaminants.

Learn more at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Are you looking to buy a home with a private residential well?

Test the water to make sure it's safe for you and your family! Learn more about testing and what to test for at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

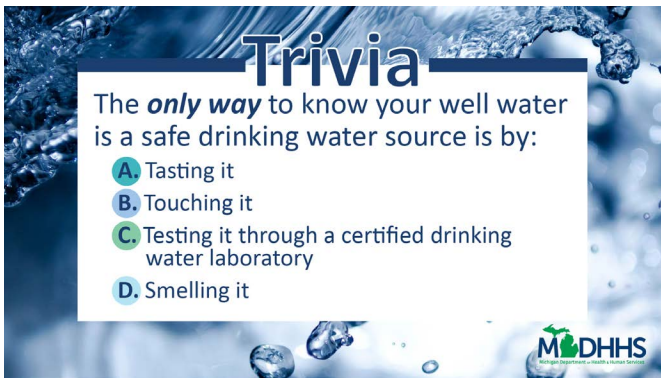
Check with the county to see what testing may be required before a real estate transaction.

Are you a new homeowner with a private residential well?

Know the quality of your water to protect your health. Contaminants can enter drinking water unnoticed. Many have no color, taste, or smell and some can be harmful. Testing your water is the only way to know if it's safe.

Learn more about testing and what to test for at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

The correct answer is B. Test your residential well water every year for coliform bacteria. Learn more about testing your private residential well water at bit.ly/MiWellColiformBacteria or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



The correct answer is C. Test your residential well water routinely to ensure you have a safe drinking water source. Learn more about testing your private residential well water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Topic: Private Residential Well Maintenance

As a private residential well owner, have you ever wondered how safe your water is?

Contaminants can enter water undetected, as many have no smell, taste, or color. Protect your loved ones by keeping your water safe by knowing how to:

- Maintain your well
- Test your drinking water
- Treat your water, if needed

Learn more on how to keep your water safe at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Taking care of your private residential well is good for your health! Protect yourself and your loved ones from contaminants that can make you sick by:

- Inspecting your wellhead and well system
- Creating a routine well maintenance schedule that includes testing your water
- Keeping a record of your maintenance to reference

Learn more about these well maintenance tips at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Private residential well owners, do you check for cracks and openings on your wellhead and well cap several times a year?

A wellhead and well cap keep polluted rainwater, insects, and small animals from getting into the well. If these get in, it can make your water unhealthy.

Learn more about well maintenance at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Own a private residential well? Never store, use, or dump harmful products in your yard. These can soak into the ground and contaminate the water you drink. Find a local household hazardous waste program to correctly dispose of products you no longer need: bit.ly/EGLEHazardousWaste.

Learn more ways you can protect your drinking water at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

As a private residential well owner, have you ever had your well system inspected?

Well systems should be inspected by a professional at least every 10 years. Making sure your well system is in good condition means safer water to drink!

Learn more well maintenance tips at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Getting your lawn ready for spring?

As a well owner, remember to never store, use, or dump lawn fertilizers and pesticides near your wellhead. If your wellhead or cap has cracks or is not properly sealed, these products could get into your well. They can also seep into the ground and contaminate groundwater.

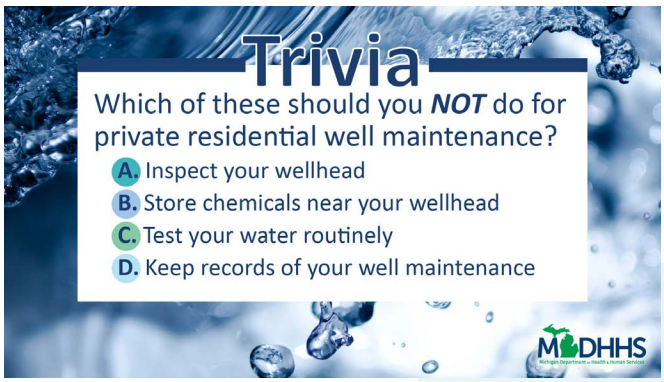
Always follow application instructions for fertilizers and pesticides and don't over-apply near the wellhead.

Learn more ways you can protect your well at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline 844-934-1315.

Private well owners: Can you easily get to your wellhead for maintenance?

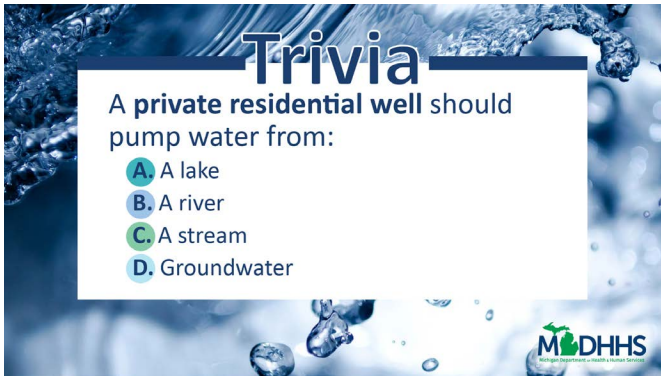
If you're not sure, now would be a good time to look. Your wellhead should always be easy to access, and structures should never be built over it.

Learn more well maintenance tips at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline 844-934-1315.



The correct answer is B. Never store, use, or dump chemicals near your wellhead. Chemicals can get into your well or seep into the ground and contaminate the water you drink.

Learn more ways you can protect your drinking water at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



The correct answer is D. Private residential wells should pump groundwater from deep below the Earth's surface. Groundwater is water from rain and snow that soaked into the soil and moved downward through cracks and other openings in rocks and sand over time. Learn more about ways you can protect your drinking water at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Topic: Private Residential Wells

FACT!

There's over one million Michiganders whose drinking water comes from groundwater pumped by a private residential well. Do you get your drinking water from a private residential well?

Learn more about wells at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Did you know, contaminants, natural and human-made, can enter water unnoticed, since many have no smell, taste, or color? Some can be harmful to your health. Proper well maintenance and regular water testing can help protect the health of you and your family.

To learn how to protect your private residential well drinking water and your health, go to Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell."

Topic: Ground Water

Fact! Just under half of Michiganders use groundwater as their drinking water source. This includes both community public water supplies and private residential wells. Let's keep our drinking water sources safe and protect the water you drink. Learn more about protecting your well at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

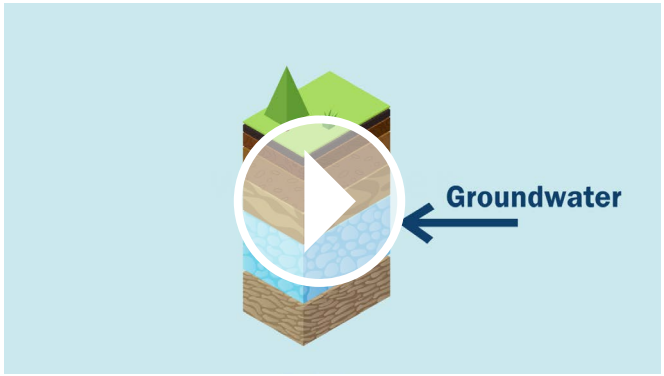
Myth! 95% of all the fresh water in the world (not including polar ice caps) is actually groundwater. In Michigan, 44% of residents get their drinking water from groundwater.

Learn more about groundwater and private residential wells at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Topic: Where your drinking water comes from

Water is an essential part of all living things. It is also essential that you are aware of your own drinking water quality. Do you know where your drinking water comes from?

Go to bit.ly/DrinkingWaterSupplyTypes to learn more about Michigan's residential water supply types.



Have you ever wondered where your drinking water comes from or how it gets to your home? Let's follow water as it goes through our environment and becomes our drinking water in this short video.

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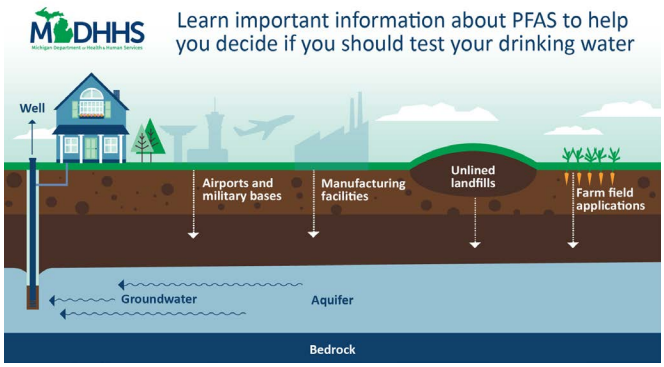
Topic: Drinking Water Contaminants



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been used in the industry of manufacturing and commercial products for many years. When these products are made or used in industry, they are sometimes released into the environment. When this happens and depending on where you live, your well water could be impacted or contaminated by PFAS.

Having a private residential well means that you are responsible for your own water system. This includes taking care of your well system to protect your drinking water and health. Learn important information about PFAS. It could help you decide if you should test your drinking water. To learn more about PFAS in drinking water go to bit.ly/MiWellPFAS.

Twitter Posts (<280 characters)

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Spring showers bring flooding water!

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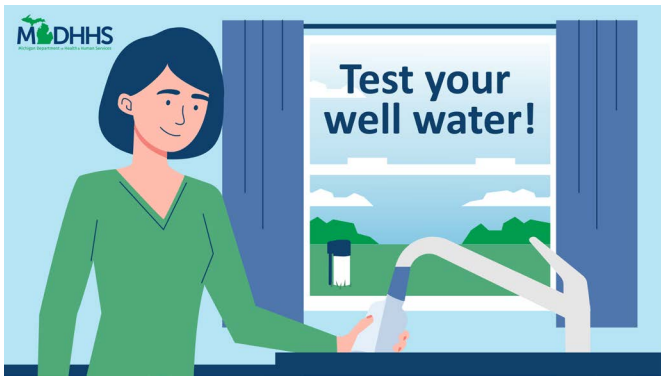

Do you know if your well water is safe to drink? The only way to know is to test your water.

Learn about Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations for well water testing at bit.ly/MiWellTesting or call 844-934-1315.

Routinely test your well water to know it's safe to drink.

A USGS study found that 23% of tested wells contained one or more contaminants above federal drinking water standards or health-based levels.

Learn more about water testing at bit.ly/MiWellTesting or call 844-934-1315.

Have a private residential well and thinking about starting a family? Get your drinking water tested!

Pregnant persons, infants, and young children's health can be more at risk from some contaminants.

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Are you looking to buy a home with a private residential well?

Test the water to make sure it's safe for you and your family! Learn more about testing and what to test for at bit.ly/MiWellTesting or call 844-934-1315.

Are you a new homeowner with a private residential well?

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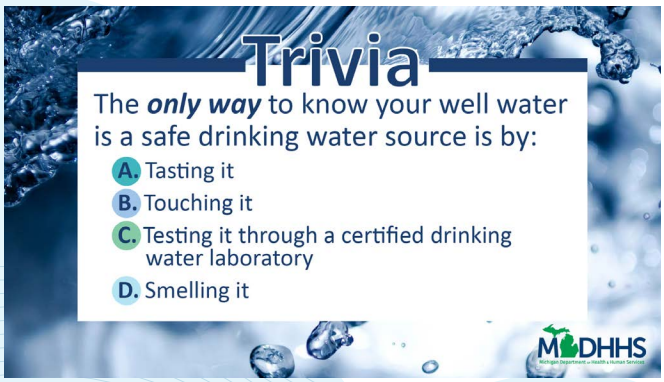

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Protect your family by knowing how to:

- Maintain your well
- Test your drinking water
- Treat your water, if needed

Learn more on how to keep your water safe at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance or call 844-934-1315.

Protect your family from harmful contaminants by:

- Inspecting your well system
- Creating a routine well maintenance schedule, including water testing
- Keeping a record of your maintenance

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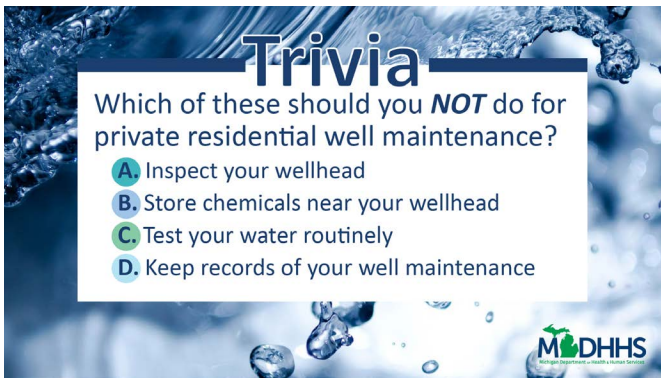

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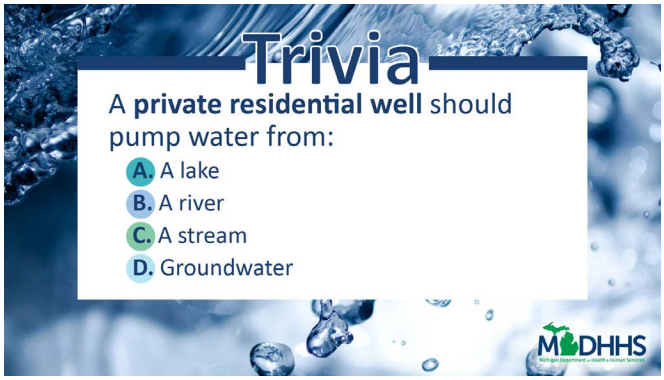

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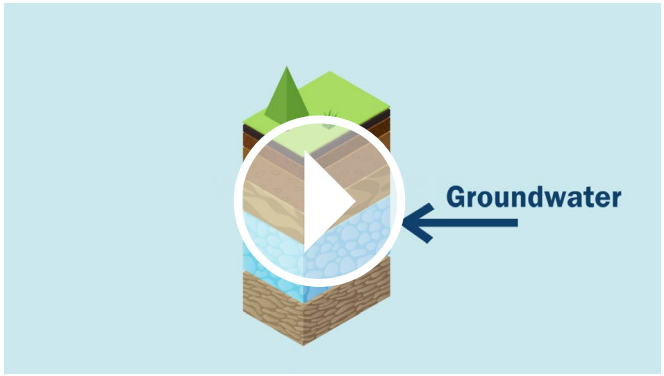

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Topic: Drinking Water Contaminants

When per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are made or used in industry, they are sometimes released into the environment.

Learn important information about PFAS to help you decide if you should test your drinking water. To learn more go to bit.ly/MiWellPFAS.

Educational Material

The following educational material have been developed and designed to communicate critical drinking water information to Michigan residents. Material in this toolkit provide in depth information about:

- where your drinking water comes from
- best drinking water practices, and
- common drinking water contaminants.

View and save the fact sheet by clicking on the icon/image. The material will open in a new window where you can then download and save to your files.

Fact Sheets

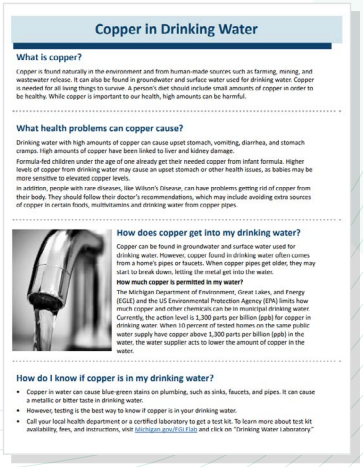
Drinking Water Contaminants

Coliform Bacteria

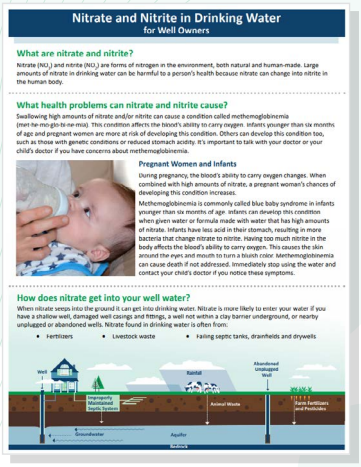
[Coliform Bacteria (Spanish)]

[Coliform Bacteria (Arabic)]

Copper



Nitrate and Nitrite

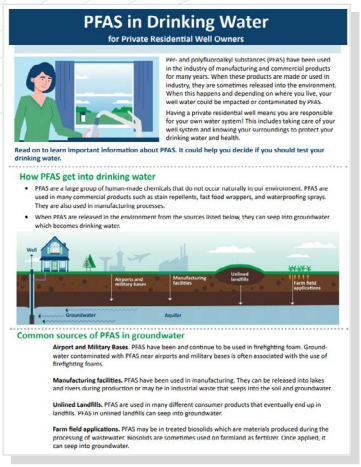


[Nitrate and Nitrite (Spanish)]

[Nitrate and Nitrite (Arabic)]

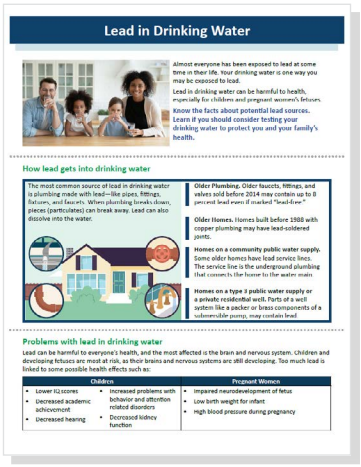
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

[Michigan PFAS Response Website]



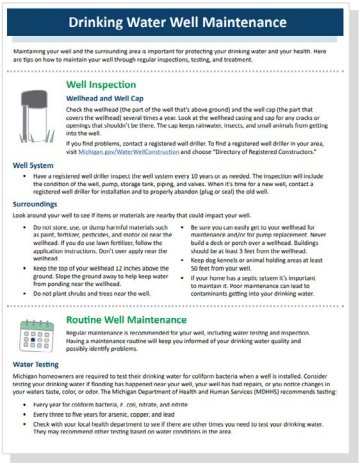
Lead

[Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe]



Drinking Water Best Practices

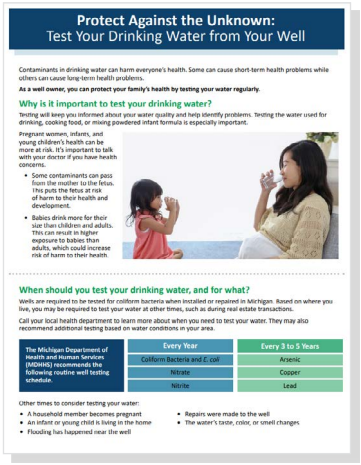
Private Residential Well Maintenance



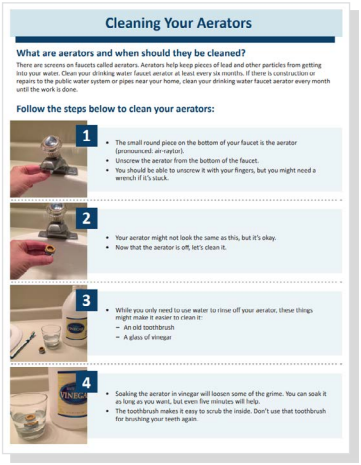
[Private Residential Well Maintenance (Spanish)]

[Private Residential Well Maintenance (Arabic)]

Drinking Water Testing



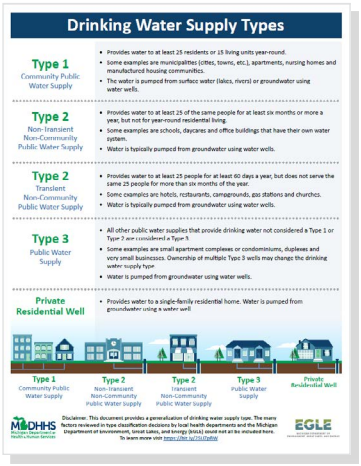
Cleaning your Aerator



[Cleaning your Aerator (Spanish)]

Know Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Supply Types



Postcards

Mailing Postcard

Non-Mailing Postcard

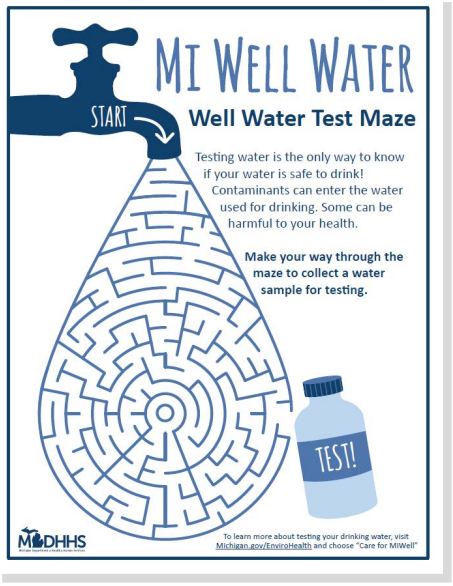
Worksheets

The following worksheets have been designed to be fun and entertaining for school-aged children while they also learn about drinking water. These can be used in classrooms or as fun at-home activities for children.

All worksheets are standard letter 8.5 x 11 size and one page. View and save the worksheets by clicking on the icon/image. The worksheet will open in a new window where you can then download and save to your files.

Worksheets

Designed for Upper Elementary+



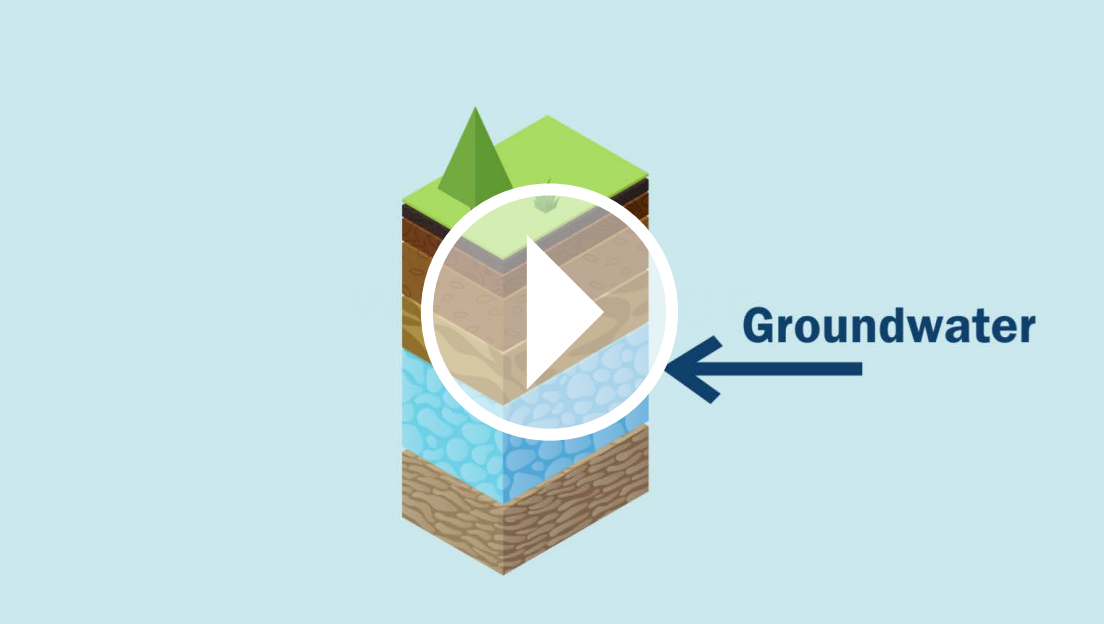
Designed for Middle School+

Videos

The following videos have been designed to help explain topics related to drinking water and health. View the video by clicking on the icon/image. The video will open in a new window. You can then copy the link to the video to share!

Videos

Where does your drinking water come from? Follow water from start to tap.



Contact Us

To request printed materials (while supplies last), please complete this request form. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315 to request supplies or if you have any questions about the materials we have provided.

MDHHS-Pub-1485 (12-21) Version 1